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Taking Liberties

April 1992

Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross

SCREWS ATTACK KENNY CARTER

Kenny Carter, FRAMED for murder after a fellow prisoner committed suicide(see TL 5),has been moved to HMP Whitemoor(see P. 2). Before he was moved, however, Kenny was attacked and badly beaten up by screws.

He was accused of trying to start a riot and denied it , the Governor initially believing Kenny. But the Prison Authorities then turned round and branded him a liar. At this, Kenny lost his cool and attacked a screw. He was dragged off down the block.. Two days later "***a 20- stone Blockhead of a screw, shitbag, attacked me when I was sitting down, busting my jaw, lip, face, head and neck - he squeezed me till I blacked out and threatened my life***". There is no doubt that Kenny is in danger from the screws as he is a fighter and the system doesn't like those who fight back. Kenny described his stay in the various prisons he has been in :

DURHAM - 12 months solitary for nothing
AYLESBURY - 4 months solitary for alleged affair with psychologist
GARTREE - 5 months solitary
PARKHURST - 3 weeks solitary ;' unfit to mix' - branded a psychopath
FRANKLAND - 2 and a half months solitary - shipped out of Gartree for allegedly organising a riot.

The NABC urges all supporters to write to Kenny to show solidarity ; his fight is our fight too! Kenny 's Prison number is AD3434 and he is at ;

HMP Whitemoor,
Longhill Rd,
March,
Cambs.

TWO YEARS ON AND STILL FIGHTING

The trial of the 'Strangeways Scapegoats' is now entering its 3rd month .The latest news is that the State is not having it all its own way. Since the beginning of the trial the police have found their evidence drastically reduced as other prisoners pressured into giving statements after the uprising, have now withdrawn them. Also, on Monday 2nd March, the Murder charges were dropped against all those charged, after hearing forensic and medical evidence. This is a significant victory.

At the height of the Uprising, the tabloid media was howling "Up To 50 Killed" and the 'quality' press was being' more reasonable', putting the number at 6- 8. At last this 'murderers smokescreen' has been stripped away. The trial continues with the men being charged with riot for their actions in rising up against the brutality and inhumanity of the prison regime - the real issue of these showtrials.

The 2nd anniversary of the Strangeways Uprising was marked by a demonstration in Manchester on Wednesday April 1st. Although small in size the demo went through the City centre and ended with a rally at the court, and let it be known that the prisoners are not forgotten..

THE VOTE CHANGES NOTHING - THE CLASS STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

supporting class war prisoners

Martin Foran - Dying For Justice

Martin Foran, an innocent man twice FRAMED for robbery by the WMSCS , was recently recaptured by the police after 6 months on the run. On his arrest he was taken to Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. Just as his wife and children prepared the expensive journey to the IoW, he was transferred to Full Sutton in Yorkshire. Martin now believes that having destroyed his body, the authorities are aiming to destroy his mind. Full Sutton has had 14 suicides this year. Martin is now very weak.

He finds it difficult to even climb a few stairs and is in unbearable pain. Despite this and a heart which doctors have warned may not survive surgery, he has again decided to hunger-strike in an effort to get medical treatment. He had hoped that he would be treated at

Martin displays injuries sustained in previous beatings

a Birmingham hospital, so that his wife and children would be able to see him; even more pressing was Martin's knowledge that he is unlikely to survive surgery.

His letters now tell of the "mind games" the authorities are playing. A few weeks ago he was sent to see a specialist in Birmingham who had agreed to operate but stressed that any surgery must be done immediately. He requested Martin's Prison File so he could read up on previous mediacl history. Promised that the files would be sent on and heavily dosed with pain killers, Martin was sent home on parole until March 2nd. He describes the delight of his children as he arrived home with a probation officer's letter testifying that he was too ill to be moved back to prison.

He arrived at 3.30 p.m.
At 4.00 p.m the police raided his home.

"I was dragged from my home and they wouldn't even let me kiss my wife or children goodbye. My wife was trying to explain and show the doctor's letters, but she had 4 officers holding her. My children were crying, trying to hold on to me. My wife ,I now know, ran and got the doctor to go with her to the police station. They went in one door and I was rushed out the back door to prevent him seeing me. By 12 o'clock that night I was back in prison. Everone agrees I did nothing wrong.

Noone can tell me why it happened. My solicitor tells me I was wrongfully arrested. The police say the prison asked them to arrest me. The prison deny this as they say I broke no rules. But why make my children cry?
This is when I ask what am I doing here? This old body is close to breaking. Seeing my children's little faces has broken my spirit".

Martin cannot go on for much longer. **WE MUST DO SOMETHING. WE CANNOT ALLOW THE STATE TO KILL HIM.**

Please send letters of support to Martin ;

C51796,
HMP Full Sutton,
York,
YO4IPS.

and letters of protest to the Prison governor, or anyone who can publicise his situation.
THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE.

Essex ABC

-Glen Lewis-

Glen's Appeal finally happened in the first week of April. Framed by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad for Armed Robbery,the Judge at first 'reserved judgement';but on April 2ndthe CoA judges ruled he should face a **new trial**. So, after years inside for nothing, Glen has to go through it all again. As is usual the scum in the CoA **have "moved the goalposts"**.Glen has also been moved and is now in Staffs; **W56246,HMP, 54 Gaol Rd,Stafford,Staffs.**

■■■■■■■■■■■■

Keith Mann & Vivian Smith were arrested on Oct.14th '91 and charged with 'conspiracy to commit arson and other lesser offences relating to alleged actions against the meat & livestock industry in and around Kent in '91. The police went to great lengths to capture the 2 bugging houses,tracking devices in cars and 12 permanently assigned coppers & 6 cars. Initially the 2 were under the impression they would be tried in May or June. Following a spate of arrests in Manchester in Dec. together with bugged evidence,the chances of an ALF 'supertrial' are growing more likely.

continued on page 5...

HMP WHITEMOOR - the new repression.

The construction and coming onto stream of britain's latest maximum-security dispersal prison, Whitemoor in Cambridgeshire, is the clearest expression yet that the Home Office agenda for prisons will continue to be one of increased control, security and repression.
Despite the vague hopes of the liberal prison reformists that the Woolf Report might in some way characterise official penal policy for the '90s, the existence of Whitemoor, in particular, illustrates that it is American "New Generation" ideas on imprisonment, and not those of Woolf, that are the guiding influence in Home Office thinking these days.

Architecturally and organisationally Whitemoor as a prison and a concept is designed for maximum control. Built at a cost of £89 million it incorporates in design and structure the panoptician principle of constant observation and surveillance, as well as the "New generation" idea of relatively small, manageable units of prisoners that are allowed no contact or inter-action as groups. Sprawling over a vast physical area the prison is divided and sub-divided up into self-contained wings or "living units", and further divided up into sealed spurs that are designated by colours; the hospital wing is renamed the "Medical Care Centre", the punishment block the "adjustment unit" - al ways of concealing the reality of the place.

There is a clear conflict of philosophy and approach underpinning the regime at Whitemoor, between the uniformed staff who have sought from day one in the prison to impose and maintain a more traditional,i.e. overtly oppressive, style of control, and the management staff, who have opted for the more 'therapeutic', though no less coercive approach. The two have combined to produce a situation of deep uncertainty and tension. The marginalisation and virtual defeat of the POA under the new "fresh-start" contract is reflected at Whitemoor in the profound demoralisation of the uniformed staff, who claim that in terms of actually influencing admin policy in prison they are as powerless as the prisoners. They also claim that the HO is manipulating its work-force at the prisons in pursuit of vague and dangerous notions of absolute control.
The parallels with the lock-down in Marion S.P in the USA are striking.

From the day that Whitemoor opened in November last year the solidarity amongst prisoners here has been strong. During the visit of the HO secretary to the prison in January prisoners staged a mass sit-down protest to highlight petty restrictions at the jail, and over the following months have managed to establish a precarious balance of power between themselves and the admin that has resulted in a definite easing up of the regime. **In fact, so powerful is the solidarity and self-organisation of prisoners at Whitemoor that both wings currently occupied at the prison (still only a third full) have prisoner representation committees that meet and negotiate with wing management on a regular basis.**
Virtually denied any degree of real representation themselves, screws in the prison have been reduced to conduits of institutional policy largely being shaped in the power struggle between prisoners and management.

Presently in a condition of flux and instability in terms of the regime, Whitemoor, from the perspective of prisoners could go either way - either they seize the

initiative and establish a situation where their collective and individual rights are defended and extended ,or management take complete control of the regime and create a veritable laboratory of human control. **The Spectre of Marion looms over the prison.**

In its construction of Whitemoor the HO has indicated quite unambiguously that total control as opposed to positive rights for prisoners will continue to characterise its i deas and methods.

Prisoners at Whitemoor, however, have illustrated that solidarity and organisation are key weapons in resisting such a de-humanising system and yet again confirmed that only they themselves are the real agents of meaningful and significant change in their

oppressed conditions.

JOHN BOWDEN,
B41173,
Segregation Unit,
HMP Pentonville,
Caledonian Road,
London.

UP-DATE on WHITEMOOR:

Following a peaceful work strike on March 2nd, the riot squad were called out at midnight and prisoners were removed under threat of violence to the punishment block. They were not given the reasons for their removal,i.e. no 'nicking sheets'. Then shipped off to Pentonville, Lincoln and Albany seg. units. At least 24 prisoners were moved on the first night, followed by more each day that week. Whitemoor is now in a state of 'controlled unlock'. This is Prison Dept.speak for permanent lockdown. John Bowden, one of the men moved and author of the above article, has been suffering constant harassment since moving from Long Lartin to Maidstone at the end of Sept. 1991, which was supposed to be a 'progressive career move'. From Maidstone he was moved on petty disciplinary charges to Gartree where the Governor refused any (cont.P. 5)

IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST - Living for the Revolution

Tom Manning is a Boston-born revolutionary and Vietnam veteran now serving 2 life sentences in New Jersey State Prison, having been sentenced for the self-defence killing of a state trooper. He got 53 years for a series of bombings carried out as armed propaganda against Apartheid in South Africa and US Imperialism. He stands accused of being part of the Sam Melville/ J.Jackson Unit in the '70s and the 'United Freedom Front' in the '80s.

"I am proud of these associations and all it implies".

He is one of the 7 revolutionaries('Ohio 7') convicted for ' seditious conspiracy' in 1988.

In Prison he continues the struggle and has recently written of the huge fight against the development of "Control Units" and virtual total lockdown,at its most brutal and horrific in Marion SP and Attica and being developed in Florence(as portrayed in the film "Ghosts of the Civil Dead").

"I am kept locked down 24 hours a day in the maximum control unit, NJ's equivalent of Marion. I'm considered a risk to the saecurity of the prison because of my political beliefs"

He continued;

"The prison has built cages fit for wild beasts that they call 'activity modules' and unless we agree to enter these cages all privileges,limited and mythical though they are, will be withheld, meaning no out of cell time other than the less than 2 hours outdoor recreation every other day. So, the large majority of prisoners are boycotting the cages. As a reaction to this display of unity, the prison came down with a list of regulations - one of which was a requirement that prisoners lock themselves in the showers. This was refused on the grounds that we are not our own jailers" .

In the end the prison recinded the order and threw out all disciplinary charges. A small but meaningful victory.

There have been a lot of support activities to raise awareness of the proliferation of control units nationwide in the USA;

"Here at Trenton)prison population approx. 2200- this summer the MCU expanded from one block of 24 to 3 blocks- 72 prisoners- with 2 more in construction to MCUs as I write".

The 'control units' are designed to remove all human contact from the lives of the prisoners. The MCUs are experiments in social manipulation and control and as such have a vast inventory of evil and brutal 'sticks' with which to batter the prisoners down

"As in the rest of Marion, the primary vector of official attack is now psychological backed by the imminent threat of violence. Everyone realises he is under constant surveillance".

At the moment Tom is part of a "class action suit" ;

"I'm part of a class action suit brought by a group of us challenging harassment within MCU and I'm also continuing to push my own suit challenging my confinement in MCU in the first place".

Tom Manning,
202873-4B,
MCU,
CN 861,
Trenton,
New Jersey 08625
USA.

For information on the Prison System in the USA regarding Control Units, contact ;

The Committee to End Marion Lockdown,
P.O.Box 57-8172,
Chicagi,
Illinois,
60657-8172,
USA.

"Revolution is never begun anew - only continued where others have left off".

Prison Suicides

Already this year the roll-call of working class people who have died in prison continues to grow. The following have all lost their lives this year;

Timothy Garrod - aged 30 - HMP Hull
Michael huddart - 19 - HMP Moorlands
Bernard Dean - 40 - HMP bristol
David Cooper - 24 - HMP Dorchester
George Purdy - 23 - HMP Durham
John Cash - 18 - Feltham
Simon Straw - 20 - Glen Parva
Tony McGrath - 24 - HMP Brixton
John Kirkland - 20 - Feltham

*** URGENTLY NEEDED : INFO ON WOMEN'S PRISONS FOR FUTURE 'TL'**

The new repression(Continued)

From Gartree he was moved to Whitemoor and told to "settle down". Of course, he was given no opportunity to do so and within 3 weeks was moved again.

As of 9/3/92 the lockdown has supposedly ended. Thirty prisoners including John are still in Segregation Units. The governor of Whitemoor has no plans to take them back. They are not on any punishment. The HO prefers no questions asked!
In the words of John Bowden;

"Arriving at pentonville during the early hours of the morning one group of prisoners were informed by the Governor that Whitemoor had 'won' and the same process would take place throughout the entire longterm prison system. In fact, Whitemoor has lost. Billed as a show-case prison at a cost of £89 million and heralded as a liberal experiment in the containment and treatment of longterm prisoners, Whitemoor now replaces Albany as an end of the line hate-factory.....For the prisoners who remain and those that replace the transferred 'ringleaders' the lesson of the march strike will have been learned; peaceful negotiation with such an administration is both futile and counter-productive; direct action is therefore the only worthwhile startegy to adopt.....the HO can congratulate itself on having created the necessary conditions for a British Attica".

All letters of protest to the Governor of HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March, Cambridge.
And to the Home Office Prison Dept., Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

COCKROACH FEAR FOR JAIL BABIES

Holloway Prison - Concentration Camp for workin g class women- is now being exposed as a health hazard for the babies of the women prisoners. Babies born to women in Holloway cannot learn to crawl because their mothers will not allow them on to the Cockroach-infested floors. Who can blame them ? A report by Judge Tumim describes the ground floor mother & baby unit as "gloomy and dark, relying on artificial lighting. The area outside the unit is littered with rubbish, including food scraps thrown out of the windows.. this has contributed to infestation by cockroaches and ants, both indoors & outdoors". The association area and storage room for baby & play equipment were infested too.
Obviously this means that lack of exploratory play on the floor for babies over 5 months will impair gross motor development,i.e. limb and movement development. What's more, one in 7 babies weighed less than 5 and a half pounds at birth - twice the national average.

Not only does the state incarcerate working-class women the children of imprisoned mothers are victims too of the systems lack of humanity, respect and care. What more can anyone want that this is an evil system ?

Group 4 Security ; the caring face of brutality

The WOLDS prison in Humberside is to rec first prisoners on April 6th. This is the first prison and is run by those reknowned 'mafia', Security. Just to show how much they care screws (from Senior Governor to new recruits kitted out in a 'non-militaristic' uniform' to re: "firm but courteous environment in which p are given counmselling and understanding". T no doubt reassure all the prisoners when be assed and sent down the block. A 2nd private j in the pipeline - Blakenhurst prison in Herefo WOLDS will have up to 320 prisoners and 156

Snippets

FIVE MEN were sentenced to betwe 6 years on Feb.29th for rioting Puclechurch Remand Centre in Apr A further 51 inmates face charge

PLANS TO CLOSE 6 prisons were ca led by the HO this year due to t bers still being held in police This currently stands at 1,244.

THE PRISON MUTINY Bill has been down by Kenneth Baker.Now, inste mutiny being the collective resi to any exercise of lawful author is now conduct intended to overt lawful authority. Anyone found g of this will be keel-hauled.

SCOTT TOMLINSON is awaiting app against his conviction regarding firearms offences,for which he w FRAMED in Manchester in Nov.'91. support: **Scott Tomlinson: EE0495 Full Sutton,York,YO4.**

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(continued from page 2)

Keith said in a recent letter;
"Being a prisoner of conscience does alone make prison life any easier; o the one hand you're safe in the know ledge that there's a bloody good rea for you being in prison,on the other you're out of action..having support fom people outside prison does make prison life easier."
Keith & vivian are still on remand & welcome letters of support;

Keith Mann,
NE0316,
HMP Strangeways,
Southall St,
Manchester.

Vivian Smith,
TT2743,
HMP Holloway,
Parkhurst Rd,
London.

Poll Tax Prisoners

Harold Thompson - American Hostage

Serving life for allegedly shooting a man convicted of a brutal murder of a woman in Chatanooga in 1979. The man was out on appeal and acting as a police informer. Harold was FRAMED and though the case fell flat he was given life. He says; *"This sentence is in effect a death penalty".*

He received another 50 years while in prison when police FRAMED him for an expropriation on a jewellers. As if this wasn't enough, Harold then was given another 21-75 years consecutively in 1984 for a shooting incident in 1979. From 1986 to 1989 he has been subjected to intense provocation and psychological harassment by screws because he is a 'jailhouse lawyer'. As Harold says;

I am an anti-imperialist,anti-racist, anti-sexist, white revolutionary of Irish heritage. I stand for civil/human rights and will not break, bend or be intimidated. I stand in solidarity with all peoples struggling against oppression, but most particularly with the comrades of the United Freedom front, Ohio 7 revolutionaries and my many brothers & sisters within the Anarchist Movement.

As mailcall within this cage is a pretty dismal affair, I would appreciate letters from out there and can only state that they will be appreciated and perhaps keep loneliness from suffocating me as I carry on the good fight. It will break the hold of the prison-cratic parasite which is isolation".

Please send all letters/cards to: Harold Thompson, 93992, Unit 1-D-105, Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, 7475 Cockrrill Bend Industrial Road, Nashville, Tennesee, 37243-0471, USA.

STOP PRESS - Terry Frost got 2 years and Andrew Hestor was given 18 months *

TRAFALGAR SQUARE PRISONERS

BRIAN TAVARES - MV3239 - HMP Camp Hill,Cl ssold Rd,Newport,Isle of Wight. Parole is coming up in May.

TIM DONAGHY - MW0105 - HMP Downview, Sutton Lane,Sutton,Surrey. Knocked back on his parole so will probably not be out until Feb. '93.

SIMON RUSSELL - ND1666 - HMP The Mount,Molyneaux Ave,Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.Parole on May 8th.

MARK HUTCHINGS - Has got his parole on April 24th.

IMPRISONED NON-PAYERS

LINVAL COUSINS - NV2501 - HMP Pentonville,Caledonian Road, London. 90 days from March 16th,EDR is June 14th. He was sent down by Haringey Council for 3 months. He is a 59 year old West Indian man who is totally penniless but the Council are trying to get £1029 from him.

COLCHESTER 16 SHOWTRIALS

Of the first 8 defendants brought to trial;2 people were found guilty of RIOT(section1,Public Order Act),a further 2 found guilty of Violent Disorder(section 2,POA),and the remaining 4 were found Not Guilty. Sentencing is on April 6th.On remand;

TERRY FROST - DL1911 - HMPNorwich, Knox Rd,Mousehold,Norwich,

As we go to press the latest figures of known jailed non-payers is 170.....

*

Northern ABC Contacts;

LEEDS
Box JAG,52 Call Lane, Leeds.
MANCHESTER
Box 8,1 Newton St,Piccadilly.
BOLTON
P.O.Box 47,Bolton.
LIVERPOOL
P.O.Box 110,Liverpool L69.
EDINBURGH
c/o Shrinking,P.O.Box 610, Edinburgh.
PRESTON
P.O.Box 172,Preston.
BRADFORD
c/o 1 in 12Club,31 Manor Row, Bradford.
DERRY
P.O.Box 5,Derry,BT48 6PD.
BIRMINGHAM
Box 3,190 Alum Rock Rd,B'ham 8.
PORT TALBOT
P.O.Box 368,Cardiff,CF2 1SQ.
LEAMINGTON SPA
Box 1,Gaia,22 High St,L'Spa.

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All contributions are very welcome - news, letters, articles, artwork, coments etc. to;

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